

dependency or the adjudication of child abuse, neglect or dependency. The courts focus primarily on cases with complex treatment and case management needs. Parent respondents appear before the FDTC judge every two weeks to review progress on their case plan. The judge reviews the entire case plan and provides incentives and sanctions to the parent (and others) for meeting or not meeting the goals set out in the plan.

Parents/guardians may enter FDTC pre-adjudication (at a Day One or Child Planning Conference) or post-adjudication. In all cases, at the time of referral and admission to FDTC, there must be a case plan for family reunification. Before being admitted to Family Drug Treatment Court, the parents are screened and substance abuse is determined to be a factor that contributed to the substantiation of neglect, abuse, or dependency.

Most FDTC teams include: a specially trained juvenile court judge; a FDTC case coordinator; a parent attorney; a county or DSS attorney; a representative of the guardian ad litem program; DSS liaison; and treatment professionals. Other common team members are public health nurses, parenting program representatives and housing.

Family Drug Treatment Courts are currently operational in: Buncombe, Cumberland, Durham, Gaston, Halifax, Lenoir, Mecklenburg, Orange, Union, and Wayne counties. While there are 100 counties in the state, the counties served by FDTCs encompass 40% of the total number of children and youth who enter foster care due to allegations of abuse, neglect or dependency. See Appendix A for more information about NC's drug treatment courts.

The NC-DTCMIS

The NC - DTCMIS is a custom-designed system developed in collaboration with the NC DTC Administrative Office, state and local stakeholders and Cost Management Associates Technologies, Inc. The NC-DTCMIS is a web-based data management system. The only application program needed by a user of the MIS software is Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher.

As the planned core of the NC FDTC MIS, the system included the following forms: (1) Eligibility Screening Instrument; (2) Intake Interview; (3) Drug Test Results; (4) Treatment Plan and Participation; (5) Case Notes; (6) Treatment and Program Phases; (7) Discharge Summary; and (8) Exit Interview.